

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FRIENDS' of TROOPERS' HILL 2/11/04

Present: Carol, Fran, David, Rob, Susan, Helen, Kit, Liz and Alan Apologies received from Sally and Val.

Outstanding actions: David said he had asked his neighbour about possible help at a future dog show the response had been fairly negative. She had suggested he try the RSPCA which he had done with no luck. Rob offered to contact Alison Bromilow in the Parks Dept. to this end.

Kit does have a rivet gun!

The photographic survey file is now within the group – Rob and Susan have it.

Previous minutes: approved and passed with thanks from the meeting to Helen for an excellent job done.

Bristol Festival of Nature: Rob spoke positively about the event: many people visited the stand and Rob did two radio interviews during the course of the afternoon. Various new and useful contacts were established including:

- Ray Burnet, City Museum approached about moth walk,
- a butterfly conservationist from Somerset who might be able to reintroduce the grayling (Rob felt this needed debate – was it the right thing to do – he promised to circulate an E mail on this issue),
- the University offered access to a conference on access for the visually disabled,
- the Parks dept. on trees
- a bird conservationist doing a bird census by taking corridor cross sections across the city.

Rob took 15 people around the Hill on the Sunday after this event – names all collected during the afternoon – he used his usual route.

All in all a very good PR exercise for the Hill.

Bench repair update: metal slats have now replaced the temporary wooden ones and the story of the bench has appeared in the last copy of the Partnership Times.

Issues for Gary: the dog bin on Malvern Road Open Space closest to Summerhill Terrace has been burnt, a new one has been ordered

The burnt out motorbike is still under the Sycamore tree in the wood close by the Malvern Road O/S playground – phone David if position is unclear.

Work Parties: the last one was spent clearing the bramble from amongst the broom halfway down the Hill as will the next one (on 6/11).

Rob showed the meeting one of the five splendid new noticeboards which are due to go up from the 4/12 onwards. They have lettering baked onto them and feature strong clips holding the cover over the temporary notice space. Also they are equipped with large bolts to attach the signs to the various fences. Everyone thought they looked just the job. We have now spent all the money in the grant allocated for this purpose.

The New Year work party will be on 8/1/05

Fund raising: no news as yet on the SWEET grant. Susan has applied for a charity grant from Somerfield (possibly up to £1000) – this money would be used to facilitate wheel chair access from the Malvern Road entrance.

History project: Sally has managed to negotiate an extension of the grant period – Rob is still chasing the quote from the quarry man for the Pennant sandstone to expedite the mini-Stonehenge idea. As the man was not replying to calls Rob felt that the news when we finally got it would not be positive.

Helen Adshead will be visiting 3, Corkers Hill 7pm on 11/11 with Sally to talk about the school/anniversary project about the Hill. David mentioned that Brian Phillipps (Head Air Balloon Hill Junior School) was now much more accommodating about providing class time for this exercise and encouraged any contact with him to be through Sue Gladden (Head's Secretary).

Health and Safety: a use of tools session was being planned. Richard Fletcher (Community Development Officer, Parks Dept) is also drawing up an H&S reassessment which is bound to suggest a new training regimen.

Contacts with Parks Forum: the last Forum meeting was at Windmill Hill and was a talk by Sue Strickland on ASBOs and the use of professional witnesses to nail anti-social behaviour. There was also a section on Park design and the pros and cons of CCTV in reducing this kind of activity. It was felt that although this was very interesting it had little real relevance to tackling what problems we have on the Hill.

The next meeting is in December and will look at ways of publicising the Forum and Parks in general. Fran is going to withdraw from the Celebration Event as she feels it is not getting anywhere very quickly.

Fran explained that the St. George Partnership is in recess until Jan. 05 as a consequence of a review which she lead at the last meeting and which resulted in the decision being made at the end of the meeting that a break would be a good idea.

AGM: 14/12/04 in The Parlour, Wesleyan Memorial Church, Bryants Hill, 7pm. The evening will involve the relection of officers and Susan asked the meeting if she could assume all were prepared to continue to do those jobs already allocated. David said he had to share his duties over the next year because at certain times of the year he was unable to do the work. Kit agreed to write the next newsletter in consequence! Susan also mentioned that Virginia had written to say that she would not be able to undertake her role next year. Many thanks to Virginia and Norm for their help during this year.

The rest of the evening would consist of a Treasurer's Report from Val, an A/V presentation on flora, fauna, the work so far, and that yet to come.

Dates and venues of meetings to come:

The first meeting of the New Year will be on Wednesday 26/1/05 7pm at the Wesleyan Memorial Chapel.